

the supply chains for medicines, semiconductors, and other vital materials.

Congress has passed several provisions aimed at advancing research and the manufacturing of critical medical supplies here in the United States. We also created new reporting requirements to help us better understand international supply chains and counter vulnerabilities in the system.

To bolster our technology supply chain, I cosponsored H.R. 7178, the CHIPS Act, to increase domestic production of advanced semiconductors, which will help Americans to develop next-generation telecom technology, fully automated systems, and, importantly, new weapons systems.

I also introduced the ORE Act, H.R. 7812, to incentivize the domestic production of rare earth materials, which is key to breaking the Chinese monopoly on critical supply chains.

America cannot allow China to win the race to next-generation technology. We want innovative breakthroughs to happen here in this country, and the China Task Force is making progress through the legislative process.

As a leader on the competitiveness committee, I focused on issues ranging from combating Chinese Communist-sponsored theft of intellectual property to exposing the influence of the Chinese in U.S. research institutions and countering the importation of illicit fentanyl.

Too often, American companies are being coerced to surrender intellectual property to the Chinese Government in order to gain entry into the Chinese marketplace. In extreme cases, we hear of outright theft by Chinese hackers and agents. The China Task Force has produced recommendations that direct the Federal Government to ramp up investigations of individuals acting as pawns of the Chinese Communist Party and enforce antitheft laws.

Our Nation has also seen wholesale efforts of the Chinese Government to steal research and gain influence at United States universities. In my own backyard, the FBI arrested a former Penn State researcher suspected of espionage. The task force has compiled provisions to increase transparency and accountability in the higher education system, and I introduced legislation to close loopholes and force the disclosure of all foreign money in our research systems.

Finally, we must stop illicit fentanyl from reaching our communities and killing our neighbors. The China Task Force has produced recommendations to stop the importation of these devastating analogues from China.

In the House, I cosponsored legislation to hold foreign nations, including China, accountable if they fail to cooperate with U.S. narcotics control efforts and prosecute the production of fentanyl in their countries. I thank Senator TOOMEY for championing this provision in the Senate.

By implementing these solutions, we can make America safer, stronger, and

better equipped to lead in the 21st century.

The China Task Force final report is a framework. It is our playbook to make a difference. While our work on this report has finished, our commitment to this cause must and will continue. Phase two starts today.

RETIRING WILLIE O'REE'S NO. 22

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, in sports there are many ways to honor great players. Most sports have all-stars, MVP honors, and halls of fame.

In some cases, teams choose to retire the number of their biggest stars to recognize their careers and legacies. But in a few rare cases, a league can choose to retire a player's number for every team.

That is how Major League Baseball chose to honor the monumental achievements and impact of Jackie Robinson's iconic No. 42. And that is why the NHL should retire Willie O'Ree's No. 22.

Willie is recognized as both an ambassador and a pioneer of the sport. O'Ree broke the NHL's color barrier and helped end segregation in professional hockey. He changed the game for the better, and he deserves this distinguished honor.

He made his debut in the NHL in 1958. His groundbreaking journey through the NHL inspired hundreds of other players, both men and women, and laid the groundwork for Hispanic, indigenous, and Asian players in the NHL, as well as the growth of the women's game.

But what makes Willie O'Ree's impact more impressive is the global impact he has made in the sport of ice hockey. There is no better way to say this: If Willie O'Ree had not broken the color barrier when he did, thousands of young hockey players would not be exposed to this sport.

Hundreds of organizations that provide inner-city youth opportunities to develop and expand social skills would not be here today. Athletic skills and professional skills through the sport of ice hockey would be drastically reduced, and the hockey community in the United States would remain far too homogenous.

In short, without Willie O'Ree, there is no American hockey culture that embodies and reflects the diverse makeup of our country. That is why I was proud to introduce the Willie O'Ree Congressional Gold Medal Act in this Congress to celebrate this man of profound strength who pushed the sport to embrace diversity and promote inclusion for all.

I hope you will join me in cosponsoring this resolution that highlights Willie's incredible moral character, impeccable hockey skills, and contributions to American history and culture.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing Willie's jersey retired in the near fu-

ture, and for Willie to celebrate this special moment with his family.

RECOGNIZING CASEWORKERS IN ILLINOIS' 15TH DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to continue to thank my staff for excellent service to the constituents of my district and sometimes to those even outside my district.

In our organization, caseworkers live and work in Illinois. They work out of my district offices, which I have historically spread out throughout my large, mainly rural district. During this Congress, my offices have been in Maryville, Effingham, Harrisburg, and Danville.

My caseworkers are my representatives to that region. They also welcome visitors and forward legislative concerns to my legislative assistant, but their primary job is that of casework.

What is a case? A case is a concern, request, or correction by my constituents who feel that they are not receiving due benefits or having trouble just getting answers from the Federal Government. Our job is to get them an answer. I was always careful never to promise that I could solve their problem; I only promise that we would try. My caseworkers did all the work.

Mr. Speaker, those district caseworkers are:

Ballard, Mary; Buettner, Ruth; Bugger, Doug; Carlson, Brad; Davis, Rodney; Detmers, Deb (Fansler); Dillman, Jen; Flanigan, Matt; Graham, Donna; Hall, Mike; Hamilton, Daniel; Hanson, John; Hantz, Chuck; Healy, Holly (Linder); Hoffman, Doug.

Jamison, Reno; Madigan Andrea; Maxwell, Mary Ellen/Maria (Madonia); Merriman, Angie; Nelson, Jed; Newcomb, Nate; Holloway, Kay D.; Pickett, Matt; Pruitt, Jen; Rice, Matt; Rohan, Dora; Shull, Kristen; Tomaszewski, Steve; Von Burg, Peggy; Weber, Amy.

Mr. Speaker, over the years, my office has been able to assist literally thousands of people with their problems with the Federal Government. Here are just a few examples of things that they have been able to accomplish.

One of my constituents was born in Mississippi in the 1930s at home with a midwife. In her seventies, she tried to get a passport for a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Spain, but her birth was never recorded, and her parents were deceased.

My office assisted her in obtaining school records, baptismal certificates, marriage license, children's birth certificates, and certified letters from old friends. These documents, combined with a Census search showing her living with her grandmother in Mississippi in the 1940s, finally was ample information for her to obtain a passport.

Mr. Speaker, I have been able to present medals to deserving veterans across my district. Often the veterans